

# Coos County Court House Is "Home Away From Home" For Rural Families

A vital role is played daily by the Coos County Extension Service in the lives of all farmers, homemakers and 4-H members. For it is their "home away from home" where they can bring their particular problems and be certain that they will receive immediate and careful attention. And it is no small job that the extension office performs.

The extension work was started in Coos county in November of 1913. J. L. Smith was the first agent, coming to Coquille from the state of Kansas. He made the trip West on the old Breakwater ship to Bandon and on his arrival in Coquille, set the office up on Front street in the vicinity of Hall street. The modern, up-to-date offices are now located on the lower level of Coos County's brand new Courthouse.

### First Program Was Agriculture

At that time, the work carried on was agriculture only, with the emphasis on dairying. One of the major projects organized was what was known as the Cow Testing Association. Mr. Smith got a group of farmers together, they appointed a board of directors and collectively employed a milk tester who made his rounds each morning and evening. He remained at each farm until the tests were completed.

This work has been maintained almost continuously since it was started and is now carried on to a much more extensive basis. Today, it is called the Dairy Herd Improvement Program and is available to all farmers in Coos, Northern Curry and Western Douglas counties. The tester no longer remains on each farm but now brings the milk samples into the Extension office where it is tested in the brand new dairy testing laboratory, one of the best on the West coast.

And it is interesting to note that today, Coos is one of two counties in the state that has established a centralized testing of dairy herds. The other county is Tillamook.

According to George Jenkins, present county agent, "There's not much we don't work at in the agricultural field."

### Service Carries On Varied Programs

The work they do includes: soil work, including problems of drainage, commercial fertilizing, and irrigation; farm crops, in which they try to find better adapted clover and grasses for this area which is forage; horticulture, working mostly with small fruits such as cranberries, and also solving problems of small home gardens.

Dairy husbandry is another part of the program carried on by the extensionists. This is quite an extensive program and is in addition to the Dairy Herd Improvement. They are constantly striving for better feeding and breeding for the animals.

### Artificial Breeding Made Possible

Within recent years, two associations have been organized in the county which provide artificial breeding of herds. This affords a breeding service of high producing sires at a cost small dairymen can afford. It also has done away to a large extent with the danger of having a bull on the dairy farms.

Another important advancement that has taken place is the trend towards feeding the herds grass silage rather than hay, which in this area, isn't of the best quality.

The extensionists not only cooperate with the farmers and try to help them in these ways, but also work with them on dis-

ease control, predatory animal control, and range management.

The farmers have a better market for dairy products, livestock and other commodities, too, thanks to a large extent to the efforts of the extension service and their work with local groups of producers.

### Farmers' Activities Important To Extensionists

In fact, any activity that is important to the farmer is important to the extension office. And the employees are always willing to lend a helping hand and give the farmers their support. Within the past 10 years, according to Jenkins, a person wouldn't find anything the farmers have done that the extension office hasn't had a hand in it, too.

Local phases of the agriculture conservation program are administered by a committee of farmers. This is known as the PMA and also as the County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

### Farmers Aided With Jobs

There are times when farmers are unable to obtain help or materials for a job he needs done and once again they turn to the extension office. Jenkins cited the case of a farmer who wanted a septic tank dug but was unable to obtain the help or necessary equipment.

The problem was solved by the extension service which built it for him under the guise of a demonstration. The theory was that the other farmers who watched the tank being built could go ahead and build their own. Numerous silos have also been constructed in the same way.

### Future Program Planned

According to Jenkins, the program for the future will be much the same type of work. However, one of the important new projects for the coming year is flood control for the Coquille Valley and Northern part of the county.

Extension agents who have helped advance the program throughout the county include the first agent, J. L. Smith, who was here for about five years; C. C. Farr of Coos Bay, father of Coquille's mayor Donald Farr; Clyde Richards, who came here from Utah, remaining only a short time; Harvey Hale, who was agent about 1925; and Jenkins, who replaced him in 1930.

### Special Program Offered Homemakers

However, the County Extension Service doesn't confine its work to helping the farmers only. Far from it! For the Home Economics division is one of the most important and active, working for the benefit of all homemakers.

It originally was organized on a temporary basis during the first World War. The agent worked mostly on foods, home gardens and canning. The first regular home economics extension service was officially started in 1936. Miss Jessie Palmiter (who is now Mrs. Rex Ingram of Coos Bay), was the first agent. She served half of her time in Coos county and the other half in Douglas.

### Agent Works Through Units

The way the service is set up, the agent works through various extension units. The original nine units included North Bayside, Catching Inlet, Fairview, Bandon, Arago and Gaylord. They have increased in number and now include Bridge, Broadbent, Bullards, Charleston, Coos Bay, Coos River, Cooston, Coquille, Eastside, Empire, Glasgow, Greendell, McKinley, Millington, Myrtle, North Bend, Olive Barber, Powers and Sumner.

The unit members hold a program planning day once a year at

which they discuss particular home problems and decide which project they'd like demonstrated. The state extension office, working through the county office, tries to give them the type of service they want.

### Members Attend Project Meetings

When a project is scheduled, each unit enrolled sends two members to the demonstration. A state representative meets with them and gives instructions on how to conduct a meeting for that particular project. In this way, the program is expanded much more effectively than would be possible without the units.

Miss Emma Lou Webster is the home economics extension agent at the present time. She came here last year from Ephrata, Wash. where she worked for the Farmers Home Administration.

### Women Attend Meeting Despite Flood

According to her, the success of the program was evident last November during the flood. At that time, a meeting was scheduled preliminary to the recent shirtmaking workshop. And, even though some of the roads were flooded and county residents just beginning to dig their way out from the debris left by the high water, over 200 women managed, one way or another, to get to Coquille to attend the meeting.

Projects offered during the year include food, clothing, home management, home furnishings, recreation and housing.

One of the big events of the Spring is the annual Homemakers' Festival. This is an all-day event at which the women exhibit various things they've made and their projects.

### Young People Enjoy 4-H Program

The county young people are greatly benefited by the Extension Service, too. For it is through the 4-H clubs that they learn not only worthwhile activities, but to do for themselves and to be better citizens.

The 4-H office was set up in 1919 with Emil Peterson of North Bend handling the 4-H projects. The program is a big one and includes instructions in cooking, sewing, exhibiting, gardening, working with livestock and many, many others.

### Over 1,000 Projects Completed in 1953

Walt Schroeder, agent at the present time, reports that the boys and girls completed over 1,000 different club projects last year assisted by their leaders or assistant leaders.

A vital part of the program is the 4-H Leaders organization. The members do not receive any money for their services, not even traveling expenses. They are just interested in young people and in seeing them do worthwhile things for themselves.

### 4-H Building Completed

The biggest accomplishment of the association was the completion last year of the much needed 4-H building on the Fairgrounds at Myrtle Point. Working right along with them were Schroeder and George Jenkins of the agriculture division.

There has never been an official 4-H club agent, as such, and Schroeder works on other projects as well as those dealing with 4-H clubs.

### Extension Job Is Big—AND Well-Done

All in all, the Coos County Extension Service performs a big service for everyone in the county. It is a big job! It is one that has grown, and will continue to grow during the coming years. And the agents deserve the heartfelt thanks of all Coos county folks for a job well-done.

See "Spike" Leslie for insurance of all kinds, phone 4891. tfc

## Coquille People Enjoying Mexican Visiting And Find Highway On Coast Area Very Good

In a letter to Postmaster Don Estes, Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Bunch tell of their visiting at the Hotel

Rosita in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico. The traveling Coquille citizens

drove down the coast highway through Tucson, Arizona and then to Guaymas where they spent a

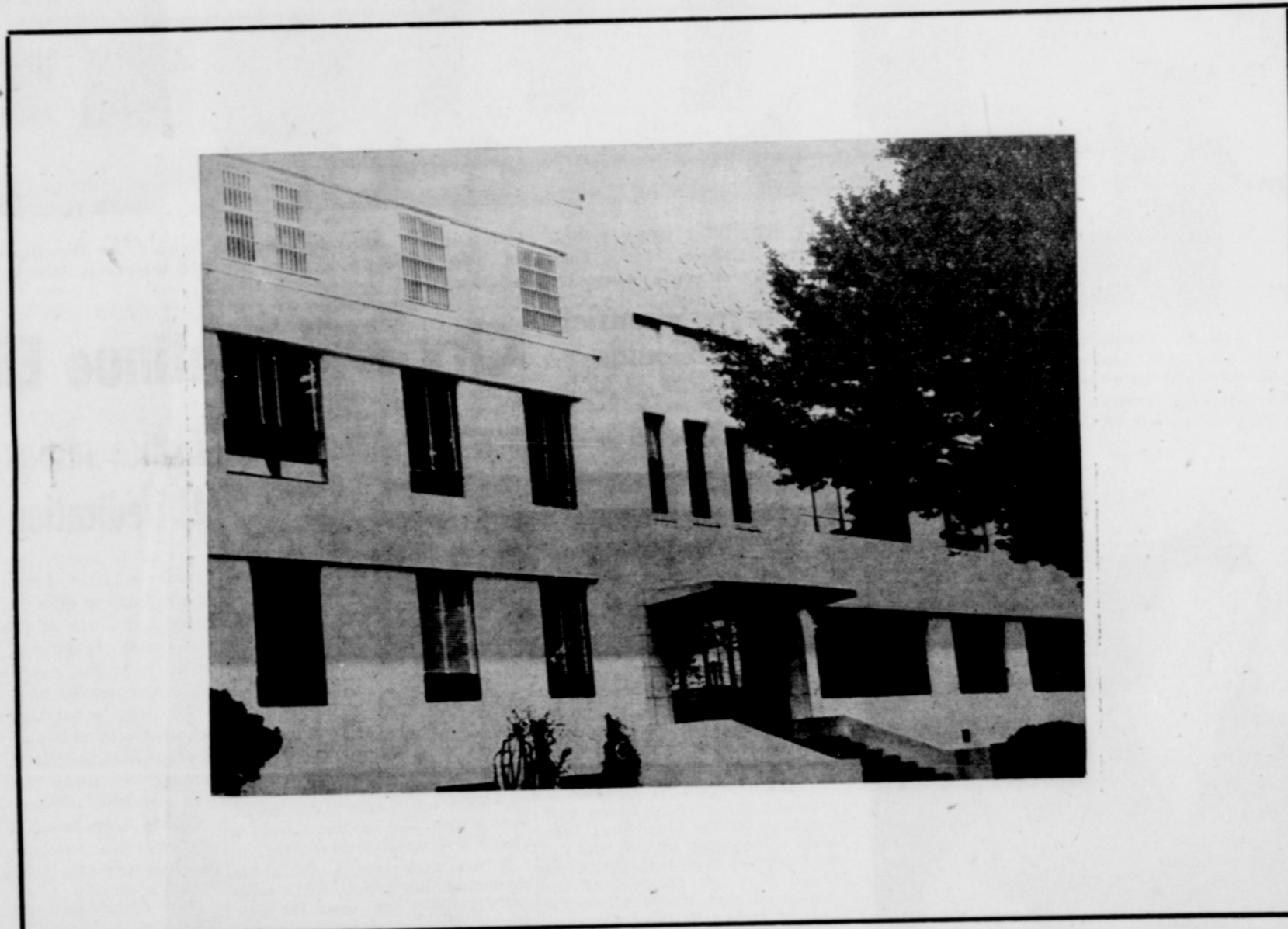
short time. From there they drove further south, and then took a plane to the city of Puerto Vallarta.

With the exception of about 100 miles of road which is under construction, the highway is good, and they report the desert is green and every once in a while you encounter much tropical vegetation.

At the Hotel Rosita they have a nice double room and three meals a day for only \$4.42. They report the food is good Mexican fare, and say that the town is really nice.

And in closing, Dr. Bunch reported, "I don't know how we can afford to come home."

# J. L. Hansen Built YOUR COOS COUNTY COURT HOUSE . .



We Are Proud of this Construction Project Which Will Serve the People of Coos County In Years To Come.

Remember, For Your Construction Needs

## J. L. HANSEN

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Coos Bay

Oregon

## CHAMBERS...

Filled the heating requirements and supplied the sheet metal for

## COOS COUNTY'S NEW COURTHOUSE

We urge you to visit the Modern Courthouse Saturday and examine our work.

Chambers Plumbing & Heating & Fuel Oil

COOS BAY

OREGON



### SALES

- KELVINATOR
- NORGE
- IRONITE
- HAMILTON

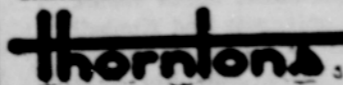
### SERVICE

Authorized Repair and Service for Evinrude Outboard Motors.

### REPAIRS

Installation and maintenance for ALL your electrical appliances.

REASONABLE PRICES



Phone 5121 COQUILLE